

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07324 041312Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 DHA-02 /068 W
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R 040702Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4967
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7324

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CG
SUBJECT: MOBUTU INVITES AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO VISIT ZAIRE

REF: CUTLER/MARKS TELECON AUGUST 2

1. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN PRESS SERVICE (AZAP) RUNS STORY TODAY REPORTING THAT WHILE IN NEW YORK FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM MOBUTU TO VISIT ZAIRE.

2. AS MENTIONED REF TELECON, MOBUTU CALLED ME AUGUST 2 TO "CONFIRM" HIS INVITATION. MOBUTU SAID NGUZA HAD REPORTED A POSITIVE REACTION FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG. ALTHOUGH NO DATES HAD BEEN SET, MOBUTU SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD YOUNG WOULD ATTEND THE LAGOS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID AND SUGGESTED A VISIT HERE "BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER" THE CONFERENCE.

3. I BELIEVE A VISIT BY AMB. YOUNG WOULD BE USEFUL NOT ONLY IN CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT AFRICAN STATE BUT PARTICULARLY AS AN ADDITIONAL MEANS OF ENCOURAGING MOBUTU TO PURSUE THE DIFFICULT BUT NECESSARY REFORMS TO WHICH HE IS NOW PUBLICLY COMMITTED. TIMING OF A VISIT SHOULD THEREFORE BE CONSIDERED WITH VIEW TO ITS BEING MOST EFFECTIVE. VISIT FOLLOWING LAGOS CONFERENCE IN LATE AUGUST WOULD BE JUST BEFORE NATIONAL
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ELECTIONS AT VARIOUS LEVELS, BILLED BY GOVERNMENT AS MAJOR STEP TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION; SOME FRANK TALK WITH MOBUTU AT THAT TIME, PLUS PERHAPS SOME PUBLIC ENCOURAGEMENT, MIGHT HELP TO MOVE FORWARD THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, DELAYING A VISIT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTORAL PERIOD MIGHT SERVE AS AN EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE INDUCEMENT FOR MOBUTU

TO IMPLEMENT HIS REFORMS. HE WOULD PROBABLY UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE WATCHING AND WAITING TO SEE IF HE IS REALLY SERIOUS, AND THAT WE ARE MEASURING OUR OWN ACTIONS WITH AN EYE MORE ON ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS THAN ON PROMISES ALONE. IF THE ELECTIONS AND OTHER REFORMS PROGRESS WELL, A VISIT LATER WOULD SERVE AS AN ENDORSEMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO MARK FURTHER PROGRESS; IF THE ELECTIONS SHOULD GO BADLY, THEN WE WOULD HAVE AVOIDED IDENTIFYING OURSELVES PREMATURELY WITH THE REFORM PROCESS.

5. ON BALANCE, I WOULD FAVOR A VISIT HERE BY AMB. YOUNG WHEN WE ARE MORE CERTAIN THAT THE CURRENT POSITIVE INDICATIONS OF SERIOUS REFORM WILL PERSIST. IN SUCH CASE, AMB. YOUNG MIGHT CONSIDER SENDING WORD TO MOBUTU THAT HE APPRECIATES HIS INVITATION AND LOOKS FORWARD TO VISITING ZAIRE AS SOON AS HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS. IF, HOWEVER, AMB. YOUNG PLANS TO VISIT OTHER NEARBY COUNTRIES AT THE TIME OF HIS TRIP TO LAGOS, THEN I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER INCLUDING AT LEAST A BRIEF STOP IN KINSHASA AT THAT TIME.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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